

## **California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the CHSPE?**

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses proficiency in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills taught in public schools. The test is given in English only.

### **Who may take the CHSPE?**

You may take the CHSPE **only if** you meet one of the following requirements on the test date:

- You are at least 16 years old, **or**
- You have completed at least one academic year of the tenth grade, **or**
- You are enrolled in the second semester of tenth grade.

### **When can I take the CHSPE?**

The CHSPE is administered twice a year, in April and November. The dates for the administration in 2003 may be found in the Information Bulletin available on the CHSPE website indicated below

### **Where can I take the CHSPE?**

There is at least one test administration center in each county in California. Some counties have more than one test administration center. A list of the counties and test areas may be found in the Information Bulletin available on the CHSPE website.

### **What do I get if I pass the CHSPE?**

Eligible persons who pass the CHSPE are awarded a Certificate of Proficiency by the California State Board of Education.

### **How can the Certificate of Proficiency be used?**

California law requires that the Certificate of Proficiency is equivalent to a high school diploma. A student who receives a Certificate of Proficiency may, with verified parental approval, leave high school early. However, the Certificate of Proficiency is not equivalent to completing all coursework required for regular graduation from high school. Speak to your school counselor to understand the benefits of the Certificate of Proficiency.

**Where can I get more information on the CHSPE?**

Go to the following website [www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/chspe](http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/chspe) or call (866) 342-4773.

**How is the GED different from the CHSPE?**

To take the GED a person must be 18 years old or under certain circumstances a 17-year old may qualify. The GED tests measure a student's knowledge in five different areas: language arts, writing; social studies; science; language arts, reading; and mathematics. The tests are given in English, Spanish and French throughout the US and in Canada. A High School Equivalency Certificate is issued. For more information on the GED, contact your local adult school, community college or visit our website: [www.cde.ca.gov/ged](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ged).

**How is the High School Exit Exam different from the CHSPE?**

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a high school graduation requirement for all public school students beginning in the 2003-2004 school year. The CAHSEE may not be taken to leave high school early. For more information on the CAHSEE speak to your school counselor and/or go to [www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee](http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee).